



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

The Corps'pondent

a newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the residents of Spring Valley

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EPA completes human health risk assessment

*by Maj. Brian Plaisted
Spring Valley Operations Officer*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its review and analysis of soil sampling data collected between 1993 and 1995.

The results of this comprehensive analysis are provided in a human health risk assessment recently completed by EPA and available for public review.

The risk assessment concluded that people living in the Spring Valley neighborhood are not exposed to unacceptable levels of carcinogenic (those known to cause cancer) and non-carcinogenic substances with the exception of a small area along the Glenbrook Road site, where

further testing is underway.

During the risk study, chemical substances found in the soil across the neighborhood were primarily inorganic metals which may reasonably be expected to be present in small amounts.

The sampling data was collected from 16 locations throughout the Spring Valley neighborhood, as part of the Corps' earlier investigation of the entire former American University Experiment Station. These locations were selected based on historical information that indicated these areas were once used for chemical testing activities and would most likely contain contamination.

The sampling data was care

fully evaluated to determine the toxicity, or degree of hazard, posed by chemical substances in the soil and describe the exposure routes by which humans may come into contact with any such substances.

Copies of the risk assessment are available in the project's public repository at the Palisades Branch Library and at the project office on federal property behind Sibley Hospital.

Because past sampling data indicates some elevated levels of arsenic near the Glenbrook Road pit excavation, additional data has been collected from the Glenbrook Road site and is currently being analyzed. Results are expected in a few weeks.

Excavation work continues on second area at Glenbrook Road

Elsewhere at the Glenbrook Road site, excavation work continues on the second anomalous area.

To date, 258 drums of excavated soil and portions of metal drums, various kinds of metal debris, large pieces of ceramic and glass, and various pieces of unidentifiable scrap metal have been removed from the second area.

Four pieces of ordnance-

related items have also been removed and are suspected of containing chemical warfare agent or breakdown products.

Currently, the size of the excavated area is approximately 23 feet by 14 feet and about 4 to 5 feet deep. Corps officials expect to complete this second area early next year.

Once this second area is completed, workers will return to the first anomalous area to finish

investigating a small portion that was located outside the confines of the vapor containment structure. This work is also expected to be finished early next year.

For more information on Corps work activities, residents may call the Spring Valley Information Line at 1-800-434-0988, or call the project office on the federal property weekdays from 8 to 4:30 p.m. at 202-686-3359.



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

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Workers carefully maneuver the vapor containment structure over the second anomalous area at the Glenbrook Road site.

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Homepage: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/dcprojects8.htm>

Baltimore Commander & District Engineer	Col. Bruce Berwick
Deputy District Engineer, Spring Valley	Maj. Brian Plaisted
Public Affairs Chief	Lucy Lather
Public Affairs Specialist	Doug Garman